accounts in nationalised and multinational bank for alleged money laundering; and

(b) if so, by what time the inquiry report is expected, indicating the agqncy to whom the work has been assigned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Enforcement Directorate have conducted investigations into irregularities involving non president (external) accounts in public sector and foreign banks. Persons involved in the alleged transactions have been charged for violations of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

Programme to Increase Tourist Traffic

217. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any special programme to increase the tourist traffic to India;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is an increase in the demand of accommodations in Hotels from the local as well as foreign tourists in many States particulary in Rajasthan and Orissa; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to increase the number of 3 or 5 Star Hotels during 1994-95, State-wise and amount of foreign exchange earned and number of tourists arrived in India during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes Sir, the Overseas Offices of the Department of Tourism have stepped up their promotional activities in the existing and potential tourist generating markets. These include optimum utilisation of the print and electronic media for advertising the tourist attractions of the country, printing, and distribution of tourist Publicity Material, supporting tour operators/travel agents for developing and selling tourist packages for India, promoting Air Charters, participating in International Travel Markets and Fairs, and making extensive use of Department's Hospitality Programme, direct mailing, P.R. etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to encourage investment in the Hotel Industry, the Government is providing several incentives and facilities. The Tourism Finance Corporation of India has been set-up specifically to provide loan assistance for construction of Hotels.

Approved Hotels of upto 3 Star category constructed in places there than 4 Metropolitan Cities are eligible for 3% interest subsidy^ on loans taken from specified financial institutions. An enhanced subsidy of 5% is available for such Hotels constructed in the travel circuits and destinations identified for intensive development in the National Action Plan for Tourism.

Other fiscal benefits include certain tax concessions, concessional customs duty, facilities under the liberalised exchange rate management system, etc.

The amount of foreign exchange earned by the country during 1994-95 was Rs. 7365.61 crores. Tourist arrivals during the same year were 19,07,320.

White paper on foreign debt

218. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to issue a White Paper on Foreign Debt indicating therein the unutilised foreign aid and country's debt position as on the 31st March, 1995; and

(b) if so, when will it be ready for distribution to Members of Parliament?